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Page : 6 of 6

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REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge that claims 2-6 and 11-16 prior to this amendment covered allowable subject matter.

Applicants have amended claims 9, 10, 17, and 18 to address the 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 issue.

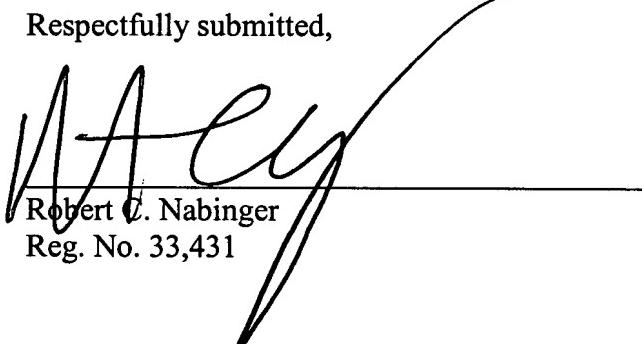
Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the electrically conductive material is selected from metals and metal oxides. The specific example of conductive materials described on page 3, lines 18-20 are metals or metal oxides.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Taucher et al., WO 93/12551 ("Taucher") or Bennett et al., WO 00/30198 ("Bennett"). Both Taucher and Bennett disclose using a standard carbon material in the cathode in addition to a barium salt. Neither disclose or otherwise suggest using a metal or, as the Examiner has already recognized by the allowance of claim 3, a metal oxide. Thus, applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that that claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,


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